Episode 20: Special Operations Squad

THE FACILITY IS NO MORE THAN AN OLD CONVERTED CASTLE. CHARMING IN ITS WAY, SURE...

THE FORMER HEAD-QUAR-TERS OF THE SURVEY CORPS.

BACK THEN THE CORPS HAD JUST BEEN FORMED, AND THE SOLDIERS WERE STILL FULL OF AMBITION ...

WHO WOULD'VE FIGURED ...

...WAS WORSE THAN USELESS TO THE SURVEY CORPS.

...BUT AN HQ THIS FAR FROM BOTH THE WALL AND THE RIVER...

...THAT THIS OVERSIZED DECORATION WOULD BE THE BEST PLACE TO KEEP YOU LOCKED UP?

...

FWISH

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS TITAN BUSINESS, BUT THE IDEA OF CAPTAIN LEVI CONSTANTLY CHAPERONING A PISSANT LIKE YOU MAKES ME-

CHOMP

EXCUSE ME?!

LEAN

DON'T GET COCKY, ROOKIE...

MangaFire.to

I THINK HE WAS JUST SURPRISED BY WHAT A FOOL YOU ARE, OLUO.

THAT ROOKIE WAS QUAK-ING IN HIS BOOTS.

...I WAS MAKING A FIRST IMPRES-SION.

BLATHER-ING LIKE THAT ON A HORSE... OF COURSE YOU'RE GOING TO BITE YOUR TONGUE.

I MEAN... YOU HAVE ABSO-LUTELY NOTHING IN COMMON WITH HIM.

IF... AND THIS IS JUST A GUESS... BUT IF YOU ARE TRYING TO IMITATE CAPTAIN LEVI... JUST STOP IT, WOULD YOU?

...YOU KNOW, YOU NEVER USED TO TALK LIKE THIS.

...AT ANY RATE, HE'S JUST WHAT I EXPECT-ED.

...I'M YOUR COMRADE IN ARMS! THAT'S NOT FUNNY...

...I WISH YOU'D BITTEN YOUR TONGUE OFF AND DIED FROM BLOOD LOSS...

DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE GETTING CARRIED AWAY JUST BECAUSE THE CAPTAIN CHOSE YOU?

HEH... WHAT, ARE YOU TRYING TO REIN ME IN, PETRA? IF YOU WANNA ACT LIKE MY WIFE, THERE ARE A COUPLE STEPS YOU SKIPPED.

...!!

THE SURVEY CORPS SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUAD, COMMONLY CALLED "SQUAD LEVI." SO THIS IS WHERE THEY'VE ASSIGNED ME...

SO CAPTAIN LEVI HAND-PICKED EVERYONE HERE?

...THESE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO KILL ME.

IF I GO OUT OF CONTROL...

THEY'RE HERE TO RESTRAIN ME WHEN I USE MY TITAN POWER.

FIX IT UP IMMEDIATE-LY.

THAT'S A MAJOR PROBLEM ...

IT HASN'T BEEN USED IN A LONG TIME, SO IT'S KIND OF FALLEN INTO DIS-REPAIR.

Manga Mogura

TOP FLOOR IS CLEANED, SIR.

CLAMTER

YOUR ROOM IS THE BASEMENT.

SIR, WHERE SHOULD I SLEEP IN THIS FACILITY?

IF YOU'RE UNDERGROUND, WE'LL BE ABLE TO RESTRAIN YOU EVEN IF YOU TURN INTO A TITAN WHILE SLEEPING.

NATURALLY... YOU STILL CAN'T HOLD YOURSELF BACK.

THE BASE-MENT ... AGAIN ?

Manga Fire.co

...

IT'S A RULE WE MUST FOLLOW.

THAT'S ONE OF THE CONDITIONS WE WERE GIVEN WHEN THEY PLACED YOU IN OUR CUSTODY.

TAK カツ TAK カツ

YES, SIR...

DO THIS ONE.

I'M GOING TO CHECK OUT THE ROOMS YOU CLEANED.

IT ISN'T AN UNUSUAL RE-ACTION.

SORRY ?

YOU LOOK DIS-APPOINT-ED.

...HIGH-STRUNG, ILL-MANNERED, AND UN-APPROACH-ABLE.

...IS UN-EX-PECT-EDLY SHORT ...

THE REAL CAPTAIN LEVI...

HE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE PERFECT HERO THAT PEOPLE MAKE HIM OUT TO BE, DOES HE?

YOU THOUGHT BECAUSE HE CARRIES A LOT OF WEIGHT, THAT HE WOULDN'T BE CONCERNED WITH RANK OR THE COMMAND STRUCTURE?

RIGHT... I THOUGHT HE WOULDN'T TAKE ORDERS FROM ANYBODY...

NO... WHAT TOOK ME BY SURPRISE ...

...WAS HOW OBEDIENTLY HE ACCEPTS DECISIONS FROM ABOVE.

THE COM-MANDER DID?!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT SOME PEOPLE SAY COMMANDER ERWIN BROUGHT HIM INTO THE CORPS.

I HEARD THAT BEFORE CAPTAIN LEVI JOINED THE SURVEY CORPS, HE WAS A NOTORIOUS THUG IN THE CITY'S UNDERGROUND MARKET.

I DON'T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS... BUT I THINK HE USED TO BE PRETTY CLOSE TO THAT.

DO IT ALL AGAIN.

YOU CALL THAT CLEAN ?!

Y- YES, SIR !!

...

SWISH SWISH SWISH

TWITCH

HEY ... EREN.

...BUT I HEAR THEY'RE THINKING OF LAUNCHING A LARGE-SCALE EXPEDITION PAST THE WALL IN 30 DAYS.

WE'LL PROBABLY BE ORDERED TO STAY ON STANDBY FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS...

I BET THE BRATS WERE PARALYZED WITH FRIGHT.

THE RAW RECRUITS JUST WENT THROUGH A TITAN INVASION!

ISN'T IT A BIT TOO SOON?

ELD... IS THAT TRUE?

AND THAT THEY'RE RUSHING TO PUT SOME RECENT GRADU-ATES IN THE MIX.

I'M NOT IN CHARGE OF PLAN-NING STRAT-EGY.

IS IT TRUE, CAP-TAIN?

THAT'S **HIS** DEPARTMENT... HE'S GOT A LOT MORE TO THINK ABOUT THAN WE DO.

...BUT A COMPLETELY NEW HOPE HAS SPRUNG UP IN ITS PLACE.

ON ONE HAND, THE MARIA RECOVERY ROUTE THAT WE SACRIFICED SO MUCH TO BUILD WAS SEALED OFF IN AN INSTANT...

THAT'S TRUE... THE CIRCUM-STANCES HAVE CHANGED SO MUCH.

...BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU "BECOME" A TITAN, EREN?

...IT'S STILL HARD TO BELIEVE ...

...

Manga Fire.to

HUH ?

I DO KNOW THAT THE TRIGGER IS SELF-INFLICTED PAIN. I BITE MY HAND LIKE...

...BUT IT'S LIKE I LOSE TRACK OF MYSELF.

...MY MEMORIES OF IT AREN'T REALLY CLEAR...

...YOU MAY NOT ASK HIM ANY-THING PAST WHAT'S IN THE REPORT.

I'M SURE YOU'RE ALL AWARE, BUT...

COME TO THINK OF IT, HOW DID I KNOW TO DO THAT?

SHE ...?

EH ...?

IF SHE SCREWS UP WHILE POKING AND PRODDING YOU, IT MAY BE THE DEATH OF YOU, EREN.

GREAK

AL-THOUGH I DOUBT **SHE'LL** KEEP HER MOUTH SHUT.

HER.

IS THE CASTLE COMFORT-ABLE?

KA-CHA

HI THERE, **SQUAD LEVI!**

I STOPPED BY TO GET PERMISS-ION.

AND I'D LIKE YOU TO ASSIST ME WITH MY EXPERIMENT TOMORROW, EREN.

I'M CURRENTLY HANDLING THE EXAMINATION OF THE TWO TITANS THAT WERE CAPTURED IN TOWN.

SQUAD LEADER HANGE.

WHAT COULD I...?

EX-PERI-MENT ...?

CREAK

?

WELL, YOU SEE... IT'S JUST SEETHING WITH RAGE!

I DON'T HAVE ANY AUTHORITY OVER MYSELF THESE DAYS...

UM... THE THING IS, I CAN'T GIVE YOU PERMISS-ION.

WHAT'S ON EREN'S AGENDA FOR TOMOR-ROW?

LEVI?

MangaFire.to

AH ... OKAY ...

EREN! I'LL SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.

...

GRAB

GREAT, THEN IT'S SET-TLED!!

...

CLEANING THE YARD.

?

NUDGE

HEY! DON'T GET HER STARTED ...

!

BUT WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY ***TITAN EXPERI-MENT?***

RATTLE

CREAK

RATTLE

WELL, IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THAT BADLY ...

I THOUGHT YOU LOOKED CURIOUS.

AH... I KNEW IT!

IT'S ABOUT THE TITANS WE CAPTURED.

...WHO AM I TO KEEP IT FROM YOU?

KKK
HUFF
HUFF
CREAK
HUFF
HI THERE !
FIRST, I REPEATED THE EXPERIMENT WE TRIED FIVE TIMES IN THE PAST, WHENEVER WE HAD A CAPTIVE TITAN: AN ATTEMPT TO COMMUNICATE.
DOES IT HURT?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
SQUAD LEADER, YOU'RE TOO CLOSE.
THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME WE'VE SUCCESS-FULLY SNARED A TITAN.

HOWEVER, THE TIME I SPENT INTERACTING WITH THE TITANS WAS SO FASCINATING THAT IT MADE ME FORGET HOW EXHAUSTED I WAS.

TOO CLOSE !!

THAT WAS CLOSE !!

WHOA!!

SNAP

UNFORTUNATELY, I WAS FORCED TO CONCLUDE THAT MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION IS IMPOSSIBLE.

SQUAD LEADER !! THAT'S DANGER-OUS!!

* ABOUT 13 FEET AND 23 FEET, RESPECTIVELY.

...AND THE 7-METER* CLASS ONE "BEAN."

INCIDEN-TALLY, I NAMED THE 4-METER* CLASS ONE "SONNY"...

MangaFire.to

TITANS BECOME LESS ENERGETIC AS NIGHT WEARS ON, SO THIS EXPERIMENT TESTED THE HYPOTHESIS THAT THEY DERIVE SOMETHING FROM SUNLIGHT THAT GIVES THEM VITALITY.

NEXT, I TRIED DEPRIV-ING THE TITANS OF SUNLIGHT.

...BEAN WAS AS FRISKY AS EVER FOR THREE HOURS STRAIGHT.

WHEREAS SONNY BECAME LETHARGIC AFTER JUST ONE HOUR WITHOUT SUNLIGHT...

HERE, THE TITANS SHOWED INDIVIDUAL DIFFER-ENCES.

THEY DON'T NEED FOOD OR WATER, AND EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE VOCAL CORDS, IT ISN'T NECESSARY FOR THEM TO BREATHE... ALL THEY REQUIRE IS SUNLIGHT...

I WAS SURPRISED YET AGAIN...

...BUT IF IT KILLED THEM, IT'D BE THE END OF MY EXPERIMENTS.

I'M INTERESTED IN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THEY WERE CUT OFF COMPLETELY FROM SUNLIGHT...

I EXPLORED THEIR SENSE OF PAIN.

!

RATTLE

SO I MOVED ON TO THE NEXT STAGE: DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE TITANS' BODIES!

AAAAAH!

STAB

AAAAAH!

AAAAA

SQUAD LEADER!! THERE'S NO NEED FOR **YOU** TO SCREAM ...

LOOK AT HOW MUCH PAIN BEAN IS IN!

HOW COULD I DO THIS AND NOT SCREAM?!

MangaFire.to

FWISH

HANG IN THERE, BEAN! YOU'LL MAKE IT!!

STAB

AHH

AAAA

AAAHH

AAA

IT WAS VERY TOUGH FOR ME TO DO THAT...

...

YOU SEE, I HAD TO SEE WHETHER THE TITANS HAVE A WEAK POINT OTHER THAN THE NECK...

IT DOESN'T HURT? HOW DOES IT FEEL?

LEAN

ズブブ…

YOU DO KNOW THAT I'M STABBING YOU THROUGH THE HEART ...?

COMPARED TO BEAN, THE INTROVERTED SONNY DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF A REACTION AT ALL.

MangaFire.to

WHAT IS IT ?!

WHAT ?!

LEAN

MM...

OONH ...

SNAP SNAP

OONGH ...

YIPE !!

SNAP

YOU WERE REALLY GONNA DIE!

YOU ALMOST HAD ME THERE, SONNY!

AHA HA-HA-HA!

SQUAD LEADER, PLEASE STAY BACK!!

Manga Fire.co

HOW CAN YOU BE SO CHEERFUL AROUND TITANS?

ALL HE DOES IS TRY TO BITE MY HEAD OFF.

SO YOU CAN SEE THAT SONNY HAS A HARD TIME EXPRESSING HIMSELF.

MS. HANGE, YOU MUST'VE BEEN IN DANGER FROM THEM YOURSELF A NUMBER OF TIMES...

I MEAN... TITANS ARE OUR NATURAL ENEMY! THEY DROVE THE HUMAN RACE TO THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION ...

HUH ?

WHEN I FIRST JOINED THE SURVEY CORPS, I RELIED ON MY HATRED TO GET ME THROUGH BATTLES WITH THE TITANS.

I'VE SEEN MY COMRADES GET SLAUGHTERED BY THE TITANS RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES MORE TIMES THAN I CARE TO RECALL.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

IT WAS AS I KICKED THE DECAPITATED HEAD OF A 3-METER* CLASS TITAN.

AND THEN, ONE DAY, I REALIZED SOME-THING.

* ABOUT 10 FEET.

WHAT?

...WAS VERY LIGHT.

THE TITAN'S BODY...

AND ALL THE TITANS ARE LIKE THAT... THE WEIGHT OF A SEVERED ARM WASN'T NEARLY WHAT IT SHOULD'VE BEEN, CONSIDERING ITS SIZE.

IN THE FIRST PLACE, THAT TITAN SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STAND, MUCH LESS WALK, ON TWO LEGS.

THEN I HEAR THAT WHEN YOU TURNED INTO A TITAN, EREN, YOUR TITAN BODY JUST FORMED UP OUT OF NOTHING.

...ARE TOTALLY DIFFER-ENT THINGS.

...IS THAT WHAT WE CAN **SEE** AND THE TRUE NATURE OF WHAT ACTUALLY **EXISTS**...

...IS HAP-PEN-ING ...

WHAT I THINK ...

I MAY JUST BE SPINNING MY WHEELS...

I WANT TO TRY LOOKING AT THE TITANS FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE THAN THE PREDOMINANT VIEW.

FOR DECADES NOW, WE'VE MADE AN EFFORT TO THRIVE ON HATRED AND MOVE AGGRES-SIVELY.

Manga Fire.to

...I'M GOING TO DO IT.

BUT ...

... FOR EC-CEN-TRICS.

LIKE A HAVEN ...

IT'S NOT ONLY MS. HANGE. THIS ORGANIZATION IS FULL OF ODDBALLS...

IT'S LIKE I'VE BEEN IN A CONSTANT STATE OF SURPRISE EVER SINCE JOINING THE SURVEY CORPS.

Manga Fire.co

THAT'S THE SURVEY CORPS.

A GROUP OF PEOPLE LOOKING TO CHANGE THE STATUS QUO...

AND IF IT DOES, THAT COULD MOVE US ONE STEP AHEAD.

EREN... ADDING YOU AS A COMPONENT IN THE EXPERIMENTS MAY TEACH US SOMETHING NEW.

MS. HANGE ...

THERE'S NEVER BEEN A CHANGE LIKE THIS BEFORE.

...BUT I'M HAVING FUN.

IT'S POSSIBLE I'M JUST BEING A PAIN IN THE ASS AND EXPECTING TOO MUCH OF YOU...

REALLY?

HM?

IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIMENTS.

TRUE, I DID LEAVE OUT A LOT IN MY EXPLANA-TION...

R-RIGHT.

IF NOTHING ELSE, I SHOULD PROBABLY BE WELL INFORMED FOR THE SAKE OF TOMORROW'S EXPERIMENT.

ALTHOUGH WE MAY BE HERE A WHILE...

OKAY, LET'S GET INTO THE NITTY-GRITTY.

MangaFire.to

チュン チュン

CHIRP CHIRP

IN FACT, EVERYTHING I'VE TOLD YOU IS ALREADY TAUGHT TO TRAINEES.

...SO I DIDN'T GET ANY NEW INFORMATION OUT OF THIS LATEST ROUND OF EXPERIMENTS.

YES... I KNEW IT ALL ALREADY.

BUT YOU KNEW THAT, DIDN'T YOU?

IS SQUAD LEADER HANGE HERE?

BAM

FIRST OF ALL, REGARDING COMMUNICATION, THERE WAS A CURIOUS CASE INVOLVING A SOLDIER NAMED **ILSE LANGNAR.**

LEAN

LOOK ... IT'S AL- READY ...

WHAT ?!

THEN LET ME EXPLAIN IT TO YOU AGAIN, THIS TIME MIXED IN WITH MY OWN SPECULA- TION.

TWITCH

RATTLE

THE SUB-JECTS ...

BOTH TITANS HAVE BEEN KILLED !!

FSSSSSSHHH

LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE BOTH KILLED AT THE SAME TIME, BEFORE DAWN. BY THE TIME THE GUARDS NOTICED, WHOEVER DID IT HAD ALREADY GOTTEN AWAY USING VERTICAL MANEUVERING GEAR.

WE HAVEN'T FOUND THE CULPRIT.

BEAN!

SONNY!

NO! DID A SOLDIER DO IT?

IF THEY WEREN'T MORONS... THEN WHY'D THEY DO IT?

MURMUR MURMUR

THEY WERE IMPORTANT TEST SUBJECTS. WHAT KIND OF MORONS WOULD...

SO THIS WAS PRE-MEDITATED, WITH TWO OR MORE PEOPLE INVOLVED ...

LOOK AT HANGE. SHE'S GONE OFF THE DEEP END.

COM-MAND ER!

EREN ...

CHFF

Y-YES, SIR.

LET'S GO...THE REST IS UP TO THE MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE.

Manga Fireto

WHO DO YOU THINK THE ENEMY IS?

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

WHAT HAP-PENED HERE?

SORRY FOR ASKING SUCH A STRANGE QUES-TION.

...

...

SIR?

CHFF

CHFF CHFF

SHF

ATTACK
ON TITAN